Texarkana Gazette

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Superforts Pound Enemy

Entire Pacific B52 Fleet Used in Operation

SAIGON (AP) — The entire Pacific Fleet of B52 heavy bombers struck the northern quarter of South Vietnam Monday in an attempt to sidetrack what may be a big enemy offensive.

Despite the 3,000 tons of bombs dumped by nearly 100 Superfortresses on suspected enemy positions, the North Vietnamese maintained the barrage of mortars that has hit seven allied bases in the north since Sunday.

Most of the shellings, about 300 rounds, struck a South Vietnamese artillery battalion less than two miles southeast of Fire Base O'Reilly, one of the bases used to check on enemy infiltration. Battalion casualties were reported light because most of the South Vietnamese had pulled out.

Allied officers predicted the enemy's big offensive would be aimed at Quang Tri, the provincial capital to the northeast which lies 20 miles south of the demilitarized zone separating the Vietnams.

There was heavy fighting between North Vietnamese and South Vietnamese south of Quang Tri last week. The enemy may be trying to slip reinforcements into the area from Laos past the allied bases scattered east of the Laotian border.

Four battles were reported near O'Reilly and Fire Base Barrett in the mountains southwest of Quang Tri. Field reports said at least 2 Americans and 3 South Vietnamese were killed, and 12 Americans and 7 South Vietnamese were wounded. Eighteen North Vietnamese were reported killed.

Fire Base Fuller, near the demilitarized zone 30 miles northwest of O'Reilly, was hit by 38 big 130mm mortars Monday, but only light South Vietnamese casualties were reported.

Fuller was the hardest hit of the bases struck by North Vietnamese gunners Sunday. Field reports said Fuller took a direct hit on an ammunition dump. The resulting explosion caved in about 20 bunkers, killing more than a dozen government troops and wounding at least twice that number. Several more were missing.

Associated Press correspondent Willis Johnson, reporting from the northern headquarters city of Da Nang, said informed sources there believe the wave of enemy attacks may foreshadow a major offensive against the populous coastal lowlands south of the demilitarized zone.

Our World This Morning

Nerve Gas Nears Ocean Grave

ABOARD U.S.S. HARTLEY (AP) — Weather cleared Monday night, opening the way for an aging Liberty ship and its 418 coffins of lethal nerve gas to be scuttled in an ocean grave Tuesday.

Rain squalls and choppy seas earlier slowed the ship and its convoy, threatening to delay the sinking until Wednesday.

But Navy Capt. A. G. Hamilton reported Monday night the better weather will enable the ship to make up lost time overnight.

Hailton, commander of the sea phase of Operation Chase, said he expected the convoy to arrive at the disposal site 283 miles east of Cape Kennedy, Fla. by midmorning. The scuttling will require several hours.

In the convoy were the nerve gas ship LeBaron Russell Briggs, the tug Elizabeth Moran, which is towing the old Liberty ship, and three escort vessels.

Russian Launches Venus Ship

MOSCOW, (AP) — The Soviet Union launched its seventh unmanned flight to Venus Monday, continuing efforts to beat the United States in deep space exploration after losing the moon race.

The Russians claim to have accomplished three landings on the fiery planet while the Americans have only flown close to it. If all goes well, the Soviets' Venus 7 spacecraft should take about four months to complete its 217 million-mile journey.

Tass, the official news agency, said Venus 7 was launched at 6:36 a.m. Moscow time, 1:36 a.m. EDT, "in a trajectory close to the present one." Although this indicated the launch was not dead on, scientists at ground control presumably have equipment sophisticated enough to make course corrections as the flight progresses.

Elements of previous Venus probes have used similar language. Weighing 2,586 pounds, Venus 7 is 105 pounds heavier than Venus 5 and 6 launched more than a year ago and Tass described it as "an improved version of previous stations of this type."

In Washington, one U.S. expert on Soviet space activity said it may be that the Russians would send up another Venus spacecraft in the next few days, similar to the Venus 5-6 twins last year.

Millions of Fish Found Dead

ROCKPORT, Tex. (AP) — Ernest Simmons, game and fish expert, said Monday he could find only two live fish in a two-mile section of the Corpus Christi ship channel. He estimated five to ten million dead fish were in the section.

Simmons would not comment on whether Hurricane Celia might have caused the death of the fish, but he said a report by bio-chemists making an investigation would be issued soon.

Drinking Water Report Made

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A government report expressing concern for the safety of drinking water in selected areas across the country was greeted Monday by local officials with comments ranging from "no surprise" to "crazy."

Of 969 water systems tested last year in eight metropolitan areas and the state of Vermont, the Public Health service found 16 per cent to be potentially hazardous and 25 per cent inferior.

In West Virginia, Dr. Paige Seekford, director of Charleston-Kanawha County health department, said the report came as "no surprise."

Nixon Signs Controls Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon signed Monday a bill empowering him to control prices, rents, wages and salaries—power which he didn't request and doesn't want.

The authority was injected by Congress into a bill extending the Defense Production Act until June 30, 1972.

Congress insisted on empowering Nixon to establish controls at levels no lower than those prevailing last May 25th in rents, prices, and pay, even though the President had made it clear he would not use the authority.

"If Congress believes," he said in a statement, "that price and wage controls are needed in today's economy, despite all the evident disadvantages, and against my strong recommendations, it should face up to its responsibilities."

WEATHER

Chance of Showers

TEXARKANA WEATHER—Yesterday's high, 100; low, 78. Rainfall, .81, period ending 9 p.m.

SW ARKANSAS—Partly cloudy and warm with chance of showers. High, upper 90's; low, upper 70's.

NE TEXAS—Chance of showers, warm and humid. High, mid 90's; low, upper 70's.

SE OKLAHOMA—Humid and warm with a chance of showers. High, lower 90's; low, mid 70's.

NW—LOUISIANA—Warm and partly cloudy with chance of showers. High, upper 90's; low, mid 70's.

TODAY'S INDEX

Editorials ..... Page 4-A
Sports ..... 1—2B
Women's News ..... Page 3-A
Obituaries ..... Page 2-A
Stock Market ..... Page 2-B
Classified ..... Pages 5—7B
Comics ..... Page 4-B
Crossword ..... Page 2-B

ONE KILLED, 46 INJURED — A chartered bus carrying a group of young Chicago area drum and bugle corps members to Miami plummeted down a mountainside on U. S. 52 on Fancy Gap Mountain near Hillsville, Va., killing one and injuring 45. Here a crowd gathers as wreckers try to pull the bus up the mountain. (AP Wirephoto)

FOR OIL IMPORT

Nixon Scraps Tariff System

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon is scrapping a proposal for total revision of the nation's foreign oil import control system in favor of an overhaul of the present quota system.

On the recommendation of George A. Lincoln, director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, Nixon is discontinuing consideration of a plan which would have replaced the system of allocating import quotas to private oil companies in favor of tariffs on imports.

The tariff system, recommended six months ago by a special Cabinet-level task force, would have opened the oil importing business to any companies willing to pay the tariffs.

Lincoln, chairman of the Federal Oil Policy Committee, made his recommendation in a letter to Nixon Aug. 13. Lincoln said at a White House briefing Monday that the President had accepted the recommendation, made unanimously by all committee members.

"Recent developments," Lincoln said in his letter, "have increased misgivings about moving to a tariff system at this time and about a tariff system as a feasible method of controlling oil imports."

Among the considerations involved in the decision, Lincoln said at the briefing, were a reappraisal upward of domestic petroleum requirements and estimates of domestic oil supply being shifted downward because of the delay in recovery of the vast Alaska oil reserves.

At the time the task force made its recommendation, the price of production of domestic oil was about $2.25 a barrel, or about $1.25 more than a barrel of Middle East oil delivered to New York. One of the principal aims of the tariff system would have been to lower the price of domestic crude oil and raise the price of foreign oil imports until the two met somewhere in the middle.

However, Lincoln said Monday, developments in the Middle East had had such drastic effects on the oil situation that the price of Middle East oil now is higher than domestic production costs.

"Because of these factors," Lincoln wrote Nixon, "the Oil Policy Committee concurs with my judgment that we discontinue consideration of moving to a tariff system of control, but rather continue with our efforts to improve the current program."

The oil import control system was created in 1959 by President Eisenhower to protect the security of the United States.

NO ACTION TAKEN

Directors Hear Referendum Plea

By LARRY POWELL
Staff Writer

As anti-Model Cities pickets paraded in front of the Arkansas City Hall Monday night, the Arkansas Board of Directors was requested to call a referendum election to determine the fate of the Model Cities program in Texarkana, Ark.

The board received requests from Bob Bartholomew, representing the Tri-State Citizens Council, and from Otis A. Hooper, representing Freedom Inc., seeking a referendum election within 60 days.

Major J. N. Shoptaw told the audience after hearing the requests that "The board should take this matter under consideration.

"If we decide not to call a referendum, then you can petition the board and we will be forced to call for a referendum."

He then asked other board members for comment on the requests. No member answered.

Midway through the hour-long meeting 11 anti-Model Cities pickets—several of them veterans of last week's picket line at Texas City Hall—walked into the board meeting and stationed themselves in the aisle. The pickets—all young people—were escorted in by detectives of the Texarkana, Ark., Police Dept.

One picket, Carl Teel, who addressed the Texas City Council last week concerning a Model Cities referendum, stood in the aisle with the American flag in his right hand and a picket sign reading "Model Cities Stinks" in his left hand.

At no time was there any disturbance of the meeting other than the brief stir which erupted when the pickets arrived.

Board members glanced up as the pickets entered, paused momentarily in their discussion of a contract with the American Transit Corporation, to inspect the young people, and then resumed discussion of the pact.

Following the final item on the agenda, Mayor Shoptaw told the audience, "Thank you people for being so quiet and polite during our board meeting. I see that we have a full house tonight. Thank you for your cooperation."

Dr. Mitchell Young, president of Freedom Inc., was originally scheduled to speak on the agenda but, Major Shoptaw said, "He called me this afternoon and said he didn't think a Texas man should show up on Arkansas side to make any requests."

Also scheduled to speak concerning the Model Cities Program were Lynn Thomas and Eugene Sutton, but, according to Major Shoptaw, both men were out of town. Hooper spoke in their places in behalf of Freedom Incorporated's opposition to the Model Cities program.

Bartholomew, chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of the Tri-State Citizens Council, asked the board to call a referendum "so that the people's voices can be heard.

"If you answer no," he told the directors, "then you are saying to the citizens of Texarkana that you do not have sense enough to know what is good for your city and that the federal planners in Washington, D.C., do."

Hooper echoed Bartholomew's request for a referendum on the Model Cities program. He asked the board "to give people an opportunity to express their opinions on this program."

In other action, the board closed Florida Street from East 27th to East 28th, closed Longdale Street running east and west between Senator and Jefferson and the north-south alley existing in blocks one and three of the Fairview addition. The board approved annexation of the Clarence Davis Subdivision at the end of Forrest Road, and approved a motion calling for a re-hearing on the closing of Fulton Street on College Hill. The re-hearing was scheduled Sept. 21.

The board also approved a one-year pact with the American Transit Corporation to furnish

See DIRECTORS, Page 2-A

One Officer Killed In Omaha Explosion

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Explosions shattered the predawn quiet of two Midwestern cities Monday, the latest in a series of scattered bombings in America's heartland.

A booby-trapped suitcase exploded in the face of an Omaha, Neb., policeman after he and seven other patrolmen were lured to a vacant house by a false distress call. The man was killed and his comrades were injured.

Later, a dynamite blast rocked a downtown Minneapolis, Minn., building housing a military induction center.

Meanwhile, at Columbus, Ohio arraignment of Air Force 1st Lt. William L. Harris was delayed because of Harris' broken leg, suffered while he fled from a suburban shopping area following the bombing Saturday of two department stores in which 20 persons were injured.

At Omaha, police, responding to a telephoned report a woman was screaming, walked into an empty 2½-story frame house. A booby-trapped suitcase on the living room floor exploded, killing Larry Minard, who would have been 30 years old this Thursday. Minard was the father of five children.

One policeman was hospitalized with leg wounds, while six others were treated and released. Some of the officers were blown through the doorway when the device went off. The blast was heard several blocks away.

The Minneapolis explosion, at about 3 a.m. knocked the night watchman Joseph Christy, unconscious.

He was not close to the source of the detonation and, not badly hurt. U. S. Marshall Harry Berglund said the blast involved use of up to 20 sticks of dynamite.

The concussion of the blast originating under a basement entryway, blew out windows for several hundred yards.

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

Ambulance Service Plan Presented During Texarkana Budget Hearing

By BARRY POWELL
Staff Writer

The Texarkana, Tex., City Council went into special session Monday night at a budget hearing and expelled members of the news media from the meeting, called for the purpose of "discussing salaries, wages, and personnel," according to Dr. D. W. Wisdom, Mayor.

The executive session was called after the council heard a proposal by Boyce Browning of the Browning Ambulance Service in Atlanta, Tex.

Browning proposed that he be given exclusive rights for operation in the Texarkana, Tex., area, and that the city relinquish present equipment, ambulances and supplies to the service.

Browning stated the service would save the city some $60,000 in the first year of operation.

Browning said the service, capable of operating in "30 to 45 days after approval by the Council, would also require subsistance from the city.

The service, he said, offering three new ambulances and three full ambulance crews on 24-hour operation, would cost the city $2,000 per month, $6,000 the first month, with a total of $28,000 the first year, and $24,000 each year after the first.

The proposal also called for a five-year contract, with provisions for penalty clauses by both parties.

Browning also hinted at the possibility of coordinating the service with Texarkana, Ark., operations, at a cost of $3,000 per month to both sides of the city.

The executive session was followed by discussion of "non-operational" departments, including the Rose Hill Cemetery, owned and operated by the city, and the Texarkana Public Library.

The Library Association has requested a $5,000 increase in their proposed 1970-71 budget, with an additional $10,000 if the City accepts the Offenhauser building at Third and State Line Avenue to be used as a branch of the library.

City Manager Ben Mizell said the offer also required that the city be responsible for the restoration of the building to original state "as nearly as possible." He estimated the cost of the restoration at $10,000 at the minimum."

Dr. Wisdom said the council was acting on a legal opinion by City Attorney Leon Pesek in calling the executive session.

The opinion, dated July 27, 1970, citing cases from California and New Hampshire courts, stated that "there is no Texas law on the subject."

A copy of an amendment to Article 6252-17 V. A. C.S., of the 60th Legislature of the State of Texas, approved May 16, 1969, by the 61st Texas Legislature, and effective Sept. 1, 1969, stating that a city governmental body may go into a closed meeting for "deliberations to consider appointment, employment, or dismissal of a public officer or employe or to hear complaints or charges brought against such officer or employe, deliberations pertaining to acquisition of additional real property," or "deliberations on matters affecting security," was read to members of the council.

Dr. Wisdom stated that on the opinion of Pesek, the executive session would not be a violation of the Texas statute.

The major was questioned as to the matters to be discussed in the executive meeting, and replied "salaries, wages, and personnel."

The opinion drawn up by Pesek, citing the 1967 Article 6252-17 V. A. C.S. excluding the amendment passed in 1969, stated, "It is further the opinion of this office that in order to be in violation of Article 6252-17 V. A. C. S., the City Council would have to be in either a regular,

(See HEARING, Page 2-A)